

the growth of Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base. The County experienced its greatest growth between 1940 and 1960. Between 1940 and 1950, it gained 36,686 persons for a 62 per cent increase. An even larger numerical increase took place between 1950 and 1960. During this period, the County gained 52,412 persons for a 54 per cent increase.

The tremendous growth in both the City and the County was due largely to the influence of Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base. The number of Army personnel at Fort Bragg in early 1940 was about 5,000. The Second World War began and by the fall of 1942, this figure became 93,000. After the War, Army strength dwindled to an average of about 17,000 during 1947. In 1950 there were 18,522 Armed Forces personnel in the County according to the census. Then there came the Korean War build-up which saw the strength of Army forces stationed at Fort Bragg climb to an average of 41,000 in 1951.¹ In 1960, there were 29,170 Armed Forces personnel in the County according to the census. The estimated combined military strengths of Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base in 1961 was 32,500.² In addition to the military strengths of these bases, civilian workers required to service the bases were estimated at 2,300 in 1961.³

Not only has there been a great influx of military and civilian employment at these bases; a large migration of workers and their families followed to provide the additional services demanded by the military-related population. At about the same time that this large in-migration was taking place, birth rates began to rise. (These vital statistic rates are shown graphically on page 61.) Birth rates had been quite low during the 30's and early 40's. After the War, the sharp rise in the number of births per year became known as the "post-war baby boom." The birth rate in Cumberland County was made even higher due to the fact that this in-migration brought in a great many young married couples in the child-bearing age groups. Death rates in the County have been generally decreasing due to both improved medical technology and the fact that the in-migrants to Cumberland County were young and not in the older age groups of higher death probability.

The result of all this has been a phenomenally high natural increase rate for Cumberland County. This natural increase rate plus the large in-migration

¹F. John Devaney, "Economic Structure and Forecasted Employment for Fayetteville and Cumberland Co.," Master's Thesis, University of North Carolina, 1955, p. 6.

²The City of Fayetteville, N.C. State Highway Commission, U.S. Bureau of Public Roads, Master Thoroughfare Plan (Memphis: Bartholomew and Assoc.), 1962, p. 34.

³Ibid.